

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner For Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231 on March 2, 2001

Eileen L. Hughett 34,352  
Name of Attorney/Agent Registration No.  
Eileen L. Hughett  
Signature of Attorney/Agent

Case JA138



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In the Application of  
**EBRAHIM REZAI ET AL.**

Serial No.: 09/171,049

Filed: October 12, 1998

For: ABSORBENT MATERIALS HAVING  
IMPROVED STRUCTURAL STABILITY  
IN DRY AND WET STATES AND  
MAKING METHODS THEREFOR

Group Art Unit: 1771

Examiner: C. Pratt

Confirmation No. 7592

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner For Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

RECEIVED  
MAR -9 2001  
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 1700

Dear Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98, record is being made below in a Form PTO-1449 of documents which the Patent Office may wish to consider in connection with examination of the above-identified patent application. It is respectfully requested that the cited documents be carefully considered by the Examiner and made of record in this case. As provided in §1.97(g), no representation is made or intended that a thorough art search was made. As provided in 37 C.F.R. §1.97(h), this Information Disclosure Statement does not constitute an admission of any kind, and specifically is not an admission that the documents listed on attached form PTO-1449 are, or are considered to be, material to the patentability of the above-identified patent application, as defined in 37 C.F.R. §1.56(b).

1. ☐ 37 C.F.R. §1.97 (b)(1) - U.S. Direct (within 3-months of filing a regular application or converted provisional)

This information disclosure statement, submitted under 37 C.F.R. §1.97 (b)(1), is being filed within three months of the filing date of a national application. Therefore, no fee is believed to be due.

2. ☐ 37 C.F.R. §1.97 (b)(2) - Via PCT (within 3 mo. of Nat'l Stage Entry)

This information disclosure statement, submitted under 37 C.F.R. §1.97 (b)(2), is being filed within three months of the date of entry of the national stage as set forth in 37 C.F.R. §1.491 in an international application. Therefore, no fee is believed to be due.

3. ☐ 37 C.F.R. §1.97 (b)(3) - (>3 mo. after filing direct or nat'l stage entry, but before 1<sup>st</sup> O.A.)

This information disclosure statement is being submitted under 37 C.F.R. §1.97 (b)(3). Applicants have not received an Office Action on the merits in the present application. Therefore, no fee is believed to be due. However, in the event that this paper is crossing in the mail with a first Office Action on the merits, authorization is hereby given to charge the required fee pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.97(c) and 37 C.F.R. §1.17(p) to Deposit Account No. 16-2480 in the name of The Procter & Gamble Company. A duplicate of this letter is enclosed to facilitate charging of the fee, if necessary.

THE FOLLOWING IS ADDITIONAL INFORMATION PERTAINING TO (2) OR (3)  
MARKED WITH AN (X) ABOVE.

(a) ☐ The Notification of Acceptance of this Application Under 35 U.S.C. §371 indicates that both a copy of the International Search Report and copies of the references cited therein are present in the national stage file. In accordance with MPEP §1893.03(g), it is respectfully requested that the Examiner note the consideration of these references in the first Office Action via the PTO-892 form.

(b) ☐ The Notification of Acceptance of this Application Under 35 U.S.C. §371 indicates that a copy of the International Search Report is present in the national stage file. Copies of the references cited in that report are enclosed. It is respectfully requested that the Examiner note the consideration of these references in the first Office Action via the PTO-892 form.

(c) ☐ The Notification of Acceptance of this Application Under 35 U.S.C. §371 does not indicate that a copy of the International Search Report and copies of the references cited are present in the national stage file. Copies of the International Search Report and references are attached.

4. ☒ 37 C.F.R. §1.97(c) with fee payment - (use after 1<sup>st</sup> Office Action & before Final Office Action or Notice of Allowance)

This information disclosure statement is being submitted under 37 C.F.R. §1.97(c). Applicant(s) have not received a notice of allowance under 37 C.F.R. §1.311 as of the date of this submission. Applicant(s) elect to pay the fee set forth in 37 C.F.R. §1.17(p). Please charge the fee set forth in 37 C.F.R. §1.17(p) to Deposit Account Number 16-2480 in the name of The Procter & Gamble Company. A duplicate copy of this letter is enclosed to facilitate the charging of the fee.

**ADDITIONAL ITEMS TO BE NOTED BY THE EXAMINER:**

☒ Copies of the cited documents are enclosed.

☐ Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.98(c), a concise explanation of the relevance of each cited reference that is not in the English language is on the attached page, except where a full English language translation is provided.

☐ Applicants also respectfully request the Examiner to consider and make of record the copending applications listed on the attached page, the copies of which are attached.

☐ Additional information is attached.

Respectfully submitted,

FOR: REZAI ET AL.

By Eileen L. Hughett  
Eileen L. Hughett  
Agent for Applicants  
Registration No. 34,352  
(513) 626-2127

March 2, 2001  
The Procter & Gamble Company  
Sharon Woods Technical Center  
11450 Grooms Road - Box B-22  
Cincinnati, OH 45242